REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search. No claims have been added, cancelled, or amended. Hence, Claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections, which are traversed herein.

I.   SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS/OBJECTIONS

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,240,416 issued to Immon et al. ("Immon").

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Immon*.

II.   RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS BASED ON THE PRIOR ART

Claims 1-9 are patentable over the cited art because one or more express limitations featured in each of Claims 1-9 are not shown, taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 1 features the following express limitations:

> executing, at a console, an integrated management module configured to manage at least two of the following layers in the database system: a database application layer, a database server layer, an operating system layer, and a hardware layer; and
> interacting with a user interface provided by said integrated management module to change operational parameters of said at least two layers.

The limitations of Claim 1 require, among other things, (1) a specific type of management tool and (2) management of a specific type of information. The prior art cited neither discloses nor suggests an integrated management module nor management of operational parameters as described in Claim 1.

With respect to the integrated management module described in Claim 1, Applicants concede that individual management tools are available for each of the individual layers described. Further, Applicants concede that these individual tools may be installed in a single location. However, a user would be required to switch between each individual tool to manage each layer. Therefore, a user could manage all of these layers from a single location, but in

2

order to manage any single layer, the user would have to switch from the management tool for one layer to the management tool for another layer. Most computer users are painfully aware of the frustration and performance penalty caused by such context switching.

In contrast, the specific tool described in Claim 1 is an integrated management console, in which a user may manage multiple layers simultaneously. An integrated management console alleviates the entire need for switching between tools when switching between layers.

Immon clearly indicates that descriptive metadata is gathered at a single location, "on a single server designated for the purpose of metadata management." (Immon, col. 5, lines 42-45) *Immon* states that descriptive metadata can be inserted, deleted or altered at that location. (Immon, col 9, lines 19-21) However, *Immon* makes no mention whatsoever of which tools are needed to perform the modification. Presumably, a user would use the multiple management tools that are available in the prior art to individually modify each of said layers.

Thus, the showing in *Immon* is consistent with the understanding of the prior art, and in no way discloses or suggests an integrated management console. The fact that all metadata is gathered in a centralized location is unrelated to which tools are used to manage the metadata.

In addition, in *Immon*, the information being gathered and managed at a single server is merely descriptive metadata. For example, "technical metadata includes a wide variety of descriptive information such as table and attribute description, table relationships, network descriptions and so forth." (Immon, col 6, lines 57-60).

In contrast, Claim 1 describes using the integrated console to manage operational parameters for the layers. By definition, operational parameters are parameters that alter the operation of the layers and do not merely describe them.

Because *Immon* fails to disclose, teach, suggest or in any way render obvious the discussed express limitations of Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that , for at least the reasons stated above, Claim 1 is allowable over *Immon* and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-9 are dependent claims that depend on Claim 1. Claims 2-9 are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given above for Claim 1. In addition, Claims 2-9 introduce additional limitations that independently render it patentable. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to expedite the positive resolution of this case, a separate discussion of those limitations is not included at this time.
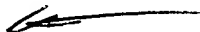
For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,
HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Brian D. Hickman
Reg. No. 35,894

1600 Willow Street
San Jose, CA 95125
(408) 414-1080
Date: January 20, 2003
Facsimile: (408) 414-1076

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

This application is related to U.S. patent application serial number 09/945,135~~————————————, Attorney Docket No. 50277-1786,~~ filed ~~together herewith~~on August 31, 2001, entitled "Techniques for Managing Confirguration for a System of Devices Arranged in a Network", naming as inventors Jay Rossiter, David Stowell, Pari Bhaduri, Venkat Malla, Jane Chen, Ramkumar Venkataraman, Yuanjiang Ou, Muthu Olagappan and Thivakaram Prakash Sivakumar.